



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

#2 South Morton
East Helena, MT 59635
Phone: 406.457-8583
Fax: 406.457.8573

LEAD EDUCATION AND ABATEMENT PROGRAM

EPA DELAYS LEAD PAINT CERTIFICATION ENFORCEMENT

The Environmental Protection Agency's decision to delay enforcement of the new Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) rule till Oct. will provide additional time for more remodelers and other contractors to be trained and give EPA extra time to get the word out to consumers about the importance of hiring a certified RRP contractor.

In revised guidance released last week, EPA acknowledged that remodelers in many parts of the country have been unable to obtain the required training to comply with the rule and consented to delay enforcement of the RRP rule. The issue came to a head in May after floods devastated parts of Tennessee and there weren't enough certified remodelers to complete much-needed home repairs. While remodelers, electricians, heating and air conditioning technicians and other contractors must adhere to lead-safe work practices, including special equipment filters and a ban on open flames, EPA will not take enforcement action against firms that have been unable to obtain certification until Oct. 1 of this year. Individual contractors must apply to enroll in a training class by Sept. 30 and complete the training by Dec. 31, 2010.

This rule potentially affects about 79 million homeowners. That's about how many homes were built before 1978, when lead paint was banned. We need significantly more contractors certified than the 300,000 who have taken the training course, and we also need to make sure that affected homeowners understand the importance of hiring a certified contractor.

Homeowners can find a certified firm at http://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/searchrrp_firm.htm. Remodelers can search for an EPA-approved training provider at http://cfpub.epa.gov/flpp/searchrrp_training.htm or contact their local home builders association at http://www.nahb.org/local_association_search_form.aspx to find certified renovator training sessions. To review lead safe work practices you can find this at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/training/web/leadsafe/keyrequirements/safepractices.cfm>

The East Helena Lead Education and Abatement Program is in the process of sponsoring another RRP training in Helena if you are interested in becoming a certified renovator. Call Debb Tillo or Jan Williams at the East Helena Lead Education and Abatement Office (457-8583) if you're interested and you will be contacted when the date and time is finalized.

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